

## HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

September 3, 2023—September 10, 2023

### 14th SUNDAY OF PENTECOST 9/3/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
8:45AM Adult Forum Group  
10:15AM Traditional Worship  
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### MONDAY 9/4/23

**Labor Day—Office Closed**

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### TUESDAY 9/5/23

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous  
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### WEDNESDAY 9/6/23

11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge  
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

### THURSDAY 9/7/23

5:00PM Choir Rehearsal  
7:00PM Al-Anon

### FRIDAY 9/8/23

10:30AM Grace Stitchers  
7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### SATURDAY 9/9/23

**10:00AM-6:00PM**  
**Good Old Days-Kennedy Park**

### 15th SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

9/10/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service  
8:45 AM Adult Forum Group  
10:15AM Traditional Worship

**Blessing of Backpacks, Teachers, &  
Students**

4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

#### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MON-WED 10:00AM-3:00PM

FRI 10:00AM-1:00PM

#### PASTOR OFFICE HOURS

MON-WED 10:00AM-1:30PM

THURS Hours vary

### SHORE DINER

Present this bulletin on a Sunday  
and Shore Diner will donate 20% to Grace  
Lutheran Church. Present this on  
any other day, and we will donate 10%.

Shore Diner  
6710 Tilton Road  
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234  
609-641-3669

September 3, 2023

14th Sunday of Pentecost



## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244

**Church Office:** 609-927-3082 **Food Pantry:** 609-927-9982

**Website:** [www.gracelutheranspnj.org](http://www.gracelutheranspnj.org)

**E-mail:** [office@gracelutheranspnj.com](mailto:office@gracelutheranspnj.com)

Rev. Althea Albright, Pastor ☩ Scott J. Breiner, Music Director

Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

Alison Toth, Social Media Consultant

**We welcome you to worship here at Grace!**

*Note that all text written in **bold** is for congregation participation.*

*Our hymn songs are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship  
red hymnal found in the pews.*

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GATHERING

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**Thank you for joining with us as we worship our Lord together!**

**Introduction**

*In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.*

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE**

*Aria in F Major*

by Handel

*Please stand as you are able.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

**Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a leader of the church of Christ, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN**

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

ELW #632

**Directory**

There are 2 dates for you to keep in mind for signing up to have your picture taken for the church directory if you still need to do that: **Sunday, September 17 and Sunday, October 1 from 9:00-10:00 and again from 11:30-1:00 on each of those Sundays.** You may also submit a picture to the office or to this email: [gracelutheranmedia24@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheranmedia24@gmail.com). Please contact the church office so we can get you signed up or if you need help submitting a picture.

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**PRAYER LIST**

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers:

**Members of Grace:** Debbie K., Renee P., Carole T., Bettie C.,  
Bob C., Joe M.

**Our family and friends:** Eileen, Jeff (Ruth T.), Stephanie B., Eleanor (Roberta B.), Marilyn, Margie, Glenn & Deb, Ric (Ruth B.), Rinata, Patti R. (Clare B.), Bob, Kim (Jim F.), Michal Ann, Savannah, Houston (June J.), Shirley (Debbie K.), Bob, Bill, Lou (Dale K.), Jim, Elliot (Meg L.), Tim (Diana M.), Karen (Renee P.), Catherine, Sal, Ana, Mark (Corinne R.), Karen (Sue R.), Bob (Brenda T.), Joan, Harry (Jill W.), Rob, Dorrie, Patti (Marlene D.), Carrie (Ray H.), Duncan (Eddie T.), Bruce (Elizabeth H.),  
Rachel (Pastor Althea), Louis, Louis (Chris)

**Those serving our country:** Mike Bilello, ANG, Cainan Johnson, USAF, &  
Daniel Casner, 3rd USN

**Our members at home:** Bonnie Condliff, Joan Glenz, Ruth Kruger,  
Lois Reardon

**Villa Raffaella:** Barbara Johnson **Woodview Estates:** Lorraine Moore

**The Shores at Wesley Manor:** Eleanore Guire

Please notify Pastor Althea or the church office of any changes or additions to our prayer list.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Social Media

Our newly hired Social Media Consultant, Alison Toth, has done a wonderful job setting up accounts for us on several social media sites! Please look for us on **Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter** under the name **Grace Lutheran Church Friends**.

### Good Old Days

Grace will have a table at the Good Old Days (Kennedy Park in Somers Point) on Saturday, September 9 from 10:00 AM-6:00 PM. This is a great opportunity to advertise and share information with the community about our church, and to sell tickets for our upcoming Oktoberfest. We are still in need of a couple volunteers for the 2:00-4:00 time slot on that day. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex Sunday.

### Oktoberfest

We will have tickets on sale in the narthex before and after church, and flyers available for Oktoberfest which you may feel free to take and distribute. This event is **Friday, September 29 from 6:00-9:00PM**.

Thank you to those of you who are volunteering to help prepare food for Oktoberfest. We are still in need of **beer bread, apple strudel, and cucumber salad**. If you are willing and able to make any of those items, we will have recipes and the sign-up sheet for that in the narthex on Sunday.

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

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WORD

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## FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

*The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.*

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,  
for soon my salvation will come,  
and my deliverance be revealed.

<sup>6</sup>And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,  
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,  
and to be his servants,  
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,  
and hold fast my covenant—

<sup>7</sup>these I will bring to my holy mountain,  
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;  
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices  
will be accepted on my altar;

for my house shall be called a house of prayer  
for all peoples.

<sup>8</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD,  
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,  
I will gather others to them  
besides those already gathered.  
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 67

<sup>1</sup>May God be merciful to | us and bless us;  
may the light of God's face | shine upon us.  
<sup>2</sup>**Let your way be known | upon earth,  
your saving health a- | mong all nations.**  
<sup>3</sup>Let the peoples praise | you, O God;  
let all the | peoples praise you.  
<sup>4</sup>**Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na- | tions on  
earth.**  
<sup>5</sup>Let the peoples praise | you, O God;  
let all the | peoples praise you.  
<sup>6</sup>**The earth has brought | forth its increase;  
God, our own | God, has blessed us.**  
<sup>7</sup>May God | give us blessing,  
and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe.

### SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

*God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.*

[Paul writes:] <sup>1</sup>I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2a</sup>God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

<sup>29</sup>For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup>Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup>so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the

*Please be seated. Enjoy the postlude music  
and meditate on how God spoke to your heart today.*

**POSTLUDE**

*Rigaudon*

by: Campra

**DISMISSAL** Go in peace. Share the love of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*We are glad for your presence today.  
We hope you come again soon!*

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**We thank all those serving in worship today!  
We especially thank Ray Hunsicker for helping to lead worship and  
sharing his musical talents with us.**

**Organist:** H. Ray Hunsicker  
**Worship Leader:** Kevin Thomas  
**Reader:** Ruth Bowden

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**The flowers sponsor this week is: Brenda Traa, in honor of her  
daughter Karen's birthday!**



A: O God, you journey with us in all of life's transitions. Guide those preparing for baptism, marriage, and retirement. Guide our church council and committees in their visioning and ministry. Safeguard those who travel. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: We give you thanks for those who now rest from their labors. Motivate us by their lives of dedication to the gospel, until that day when we join with them in our eternal home. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

L: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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SENDING

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*Please stand as you are able.*

### SENDING BLESSING

Beloved children of God, as we are sent from this place, know that God loves you. Christ's presence is with you wherever you go. Finally, know that the Spirit is with you whenever you call on the Lord. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**     *O Beautiful For Spacious Skies*     *ELW #888*

mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. <sup>32</sup>For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*white booklet page 4*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 10th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

*Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.*

[<sup>10</sup>[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:<sup>11</sup> it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles."<sup>12</sup> Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?"<sup>13</sup> He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.<sup>14</sup> Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit."<sup>15</sup> But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us."<sup>16</sup> Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding?<sup>17</sup> Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?"<sup>18</sup> But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles.<sup>19</sup> For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander.<sup>20</sup> These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."]

<sup>21</sup>Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.<sup>22</sup> Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon."<sup>23</sup> But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us."<sup>24</sup> He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."<sup>25</sup> But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me."<sup>26</sup> He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."<sup>27</sup> She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall

from their masters' table." 28 Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

#### HYMN SING

*What A Friend We Have In Jesus*  
*Beautiful Savior*  
*It Is Well With My Soul*

ELW #742  
ELW #838  
ELW #785

#### THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**PEACE** The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

#### GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR

*Take a brief moment to share that peace by greeting someone sitting near you. Verbal greetings are appropriate if you are not comfortable shaking hands or touching.*

#### OFFERING

#### OFFERTORY

*I'll Walk With God* Brodsky/Webster  
*Corinne Rhodes, Soprano and Kendra Werner, Alto*

*Please stand as you are able.*

#### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **We praise you, God, Creator of the universe. We thank you for all of the blessings in our lives and in the lives of those around us. Take these gifts and use them for your holy work. Grant us opportunities to serve those in need. Send your Spirit to watch over us and guide us in all that we do through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation. *Brief silence.*

A: O God, your Spirit gathers the church. Shepherd those who are newly baptized and newly ordained in the proclamation of the gospel, breathe life into ecumenical and inter-religious endeavors, and support missionaries throughout the globe. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: You created the earth and all its inhabitants and declared it good. Clean polluted skies, seas, and soil, provide nourishment to plants and animals, and make us aware of our impact on the environment. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: You call leaders to bridge differences and practice generosity. Inspire all in authority to protect people in harm's way, deliver those in bondage, support fair elections, provide care for military personnel and veterans, and show mercy to those for whom they have responsibility. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

L: You provide for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Embrace people who have been rejected because of difference, heal trauma caused by racism or prejudice, shield any who are persecuted, console the dying, and heal the sick *especially all those we name aloud or in our hearts...* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**